

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-09

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R 191237Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3904

INFO CINCPAC HON

DIA WASHDC

COMUSMACHTAI BKK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPURE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: CABINET FORMATION; ELECTION OF HOUSE SPEAKER

REF: A) BANGKOK 9837 (NOTAL); B) BANGKOK 9071 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. FOUR PARTY COALITION, CONTROLLING 206 SEATS INNEW
PARLIAMENT, FORMED. ALLOCATION OF MINISTERIAL POSTS BY PARTY
AGREED UPON BUT PERSONS TO FILL DEPUTY MINISTER POSITIONS STILL
NOT FIRM. UTHAI PHIMCHAICHON ELECTED HOUSE SPEAKER. DEMOCRATS
HOPE TO HAVE MR. SENI DESIGNATED AS PRIME MINISTER BY APRIL 22
AND HAVE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ON GOVERNMENT POLICY BY APRIL 29
AT THE LATEST. END OF SUMMARY.

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1. THE DEMOCRAT (DEM), SOCIAL JUSTICE (SJP), THAI

NATION (TNP) AND SOCIAL NATIONALIST (SNP) PARTIES SIGNED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON APRIL 17 AGREEING TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT AND ANNOUNCING THE ALLOCATION OF MINISTERIAL POSTS BY PARTY (THE ALLOCATION WAS AS REPORTED IN REF B.). WHO WILL FILL THE POSTS HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED, ALTHOUGH UNOFFICIAL LISTS WERE CIRCULATED AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY. THE MINISTER POSITIONS SET OUT BELOW APPEAR TO BE FIRM WHILE THOSE FOR THE POSTS OF DEPUTY MINISTERS ARE LESS FIRM, ESPECIALLY WHERE DEMOCRATS ARE CONCERNED. THE OFFICIAL LIST WILL PROBABLY BE ANNOUNCED APRIL 22-23. THE SURPRISE POSTING WAS THAT OF M.R. SENI PRAMOT AS INTERIOR MINISTER AS WELL AS PRIME MINISTER. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE ACCEPTED THE ADDITIONAL POST TO SHUT OFF FURTHER INTRA-PARTY FIGHTING OVER WHO SHOULD GET THE POST. THE FOUR-PARTY COALITION, FORMED AFTER ALMOST TWO WEEKS OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS,, CONTROLS 206 OF THE 279 SEATS IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

2. MINISTER PORTFOLIOS:

PRIME MINISTER AND INTERIOR MINISTER - M.R. SENI PRAMOT, DEM
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER-
MG PRAMAN ADIREKSAN, TNP

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTER - ACM THAWI
CHUNLASAP, SJP

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FINANCE MINISTER - SAWET
PIAMPHONGSAN, DEM

DEFENSE MINISTER - GEN KRIT SIWARA (NON- POLITICAL BUT
CHARGED AGAINST DEM QUOTA)

FOREIGN MINISTER - PHICHAIR RATTAKUN, DEM

COMMERCE MINISTER- DAMRONG LATTHAPHIPHAT, DEM

INDUSTRY MINISTER- MG CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN, TNP

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER- THAWIT KLINPRATHUM, SJP

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EDUCATION MINISTER- MG SIRI SIRIYOTHIN TNP

JUSTICE MINISTER- PRASIT KANCHANAWAT, SNP

MINISTER TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (2)--

SURIN MATSADIT, DEM

CHUAN LIKPHAI DEM ALSO DEPUTY JUSTICE MINISTER

3. DEPUTY MINISTERS PORTFOLIOS

MINISTER, STATE UNIVERSITIES BUREAU, DR. NIPHON SASITHON, SJP

DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER- THINNAKON PHANKRAWI, TNP

DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER- GEN THAWIT SENIWONG NA AYUTTAHAYA, DEM

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER- LEK NAN, DEM

DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTERS (4)--

SOMBUN SIRITHON, DEM

SAMAK SUNTHARAWET, DEM

KHUNTHONG PHUPHIUDUAN, DEM

CHUSANGA RITTHIPRASAT, TNP

DEPUTY AGRICULTURE MINISTER (WLAA

KRAISON TANTIPHONG, DEM

ANUWAT WATTANAPHONGSIRI, TNP

DEPUTY INDUSTRY MINISTERS (WAATT BLUQHNJLLIRIWETCHAPHAN, DEM

BANHAN SILAPA-ATCHA, TNP

DEPUTY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTERS (2)--

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PRACHUM RATTANAPHIAN, SJP

OR BUNYONG WATTHANAPHONG, SJP

BUNKOET HIRANYAKHAM, DEM

OR PRAYUNSAK CHALAYONDECHA, DEM

DEPUTY EDUCATION MINSTERS (2)--

DAPCHAI AKKARAT, TNP

DEN TOMINA, DEM

DEPUTY COMMERCE MINISTER-.KLAI LA-ONGMANI, DEM

DEPUTY HELATH MINISTER- DR. PRICHA MUSILLAKUN, DEM

OR DR. AKHOM SORASUCHAT, DEM

4. ON PARIL 17 IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT UTHAI PHIMCHAICHON, DEM FROM CHONBURI, AND MONGKHON SUKHONTHAKKHACHON,, 5,0, KORAT, WOULD BE NOMINATED AS SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT THE APRIL 19 SESSION. THE DEMOCRATS WERE ORIGINALLY SLATED TO HOLD BOTH POSITIONS, BUT IN A COMPROMISE AGREEMENT WITH TNP, THE TNP RELINQUISHED THE INTERIOR AND COMMERCE MINISTERIES AND ACCEPTED INSTEAD THE AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION PORTFOLIOS AND THE DEPUTY HOUSE SPEAKERSHIP. ON APRIL 19 UTHAI WAS CHOSEN SPEAKER BY A VOTE TO 219 TO 62 WITH 7 ABSTENSIONS, AGAINST DR. MANA PHITTHAYAPHON, SOCIAL ACTION PARTY NOMINEE. MONGKHON, WAS UNOPPOSED AS DEPUTY SPEAKER.

5. THE DEMOCRATS ARE EAGER TO TAKE OVER THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT, NOW THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MAKEUP OF THE COALITION ARE FINALLY OVER. THEY WISH TO SPEED UP THE SCHEDULE OUTLINED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT MEMBERS (REFA). PHICHA RATTAKUN, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY, ON APRIL 17 PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

APRIL 19 - ELECTION OF HOUSE SPEAKER AND DEPUTYSPEAKER.

PRESENT NAMES FOR ROYAL APPROVAL ON SAME DAY.

APRIL 20 - M.R. SENI PRAMOT TO BE SELECTED TO FORM GOVERNMENT.

APRIL 21 -22 - M.R. SENI PRAMOT TO TAKE OATH OF OFFICE BEFORE KING.

APRIL 23 - .R. SENI PRAMOT TO PRESENT HIS LIST OF CABINET FOR ROYAL APPROVAL.

WITHIN A WEEK AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT M.R. SENI PRAMOT WILL PRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE HOUSE.

6. SOME DEMOCRATS APPARENTLY HOPED THAT THE OTHER PARTIES IN THE COALITION WOULD ACCEPT THE DEMOCRAT PARTY POLICY, ON WHICH THEY RAN FOR ELECTON, AS THE COALITION GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT OF POLICY. HOWEVER, THE OTHER

PARTIES REFUSED, AND MEETINGS ARE NOW UNDER WAY TO DRAFT
A STATEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES. THIS IS THE
REASON THE HOUSE VOTE OF APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S
POLICY WILL PROBABLY NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE APRIL 29.

7. COMMENTS IN SEPTTEL.
WHITEHOUSE

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